



Example of seating at storefronts - Yale University

### Seating

It is our recommendation that, by clearing sidewalks of cluttering extraneous hardware and by grouping the necessary fixtures, we can reclaim sidewalk space for human enjoyment and comfort -- such as easy walking, social interaction, sitting, resting, and watching. Sidewalks in heavy traveled commercial areas may not seem suitable places for sitting, but the opposite can be true. W.H. Whyte's studies of street behavior show that people elect to both stand and sit in or near the mainstream of traffic flow, preferring crowding to isolation. But the successful flow of pedestrian traffic does require clear unobstructed lanes. Curbside and building-edge buffer zones, avoided by walkers, are among the appropriate places for sitting to be found along the street.

Every small opportunity for ad hoc accommodation -- for mini-parks, for bus stop parklets, even for a single bench -- should be seized creatively. The clear message, "People are welcome here", will foster a more amiable environment in which heavy public use will discourage littering, loitering, and disruptive street activity. Seating should be grouped to crowd out or discourage advertising.

### Recommendations:

- Develop a prototype or select a pre-manufactured metal street bench that would occur throughout the business area.
- Locate wood benches in parks, green pedestrian ways, courtyards.
- Combine bollards and benches with street trees in a buffer zone where appropriate. Use blank building walls, which walkers avoid, for seating locations.
- Encourage the development of private movable seating on wide sidewalks in front of restaurants and cafes. Three or four tables outside a food shop advertise its presence and serve a need.



Illustration of durable street furniture

### Trash Receptacles

Trash receptacles are an essential element of civic cleanliness, yet by their very number contribute to clutter and confusion on the street. Currently a mix of types is used -- both publicly and privately maintained. Many carry advertising of varying kinds. Public wire baskets are often damaged from being thrown into trash trucks several times daily.

### Recommendations:

- Principal (city-maintained and sanitation approved) trash receptacles in the District should have two parts: a concealing open-ended outer drum (allowing nothing to collect inside) as the fixed holder for a removable basket. Drums, of a neutral design that could be a sturdy wire mesh, should be permanently anchored (on legs) to the sidewalk at corners adjacent to a light pole or, in mid-sized versions, mounted to the light pole. Baskets and drums should be damage-resistant and visually unobtrusive along the street.
- All new receptacles in the District should conform to a single format and discontinue the use of advertising.



Example of attractive bike racks

### Bus Shelters

Bus shelters are a service to the bus rider, but they are far from hospitable. Limited or no seating is provided inside and vital information is often missing. Location of shelters is inconsistent.

In conjunction with recommendations for planting and outdoor seating, it is suggested that bus shelters (and bus stops) and future shuttle stops be prime targets for improvement as mini-centers of urban sociability and public amenity.

### Public Telephones

Phone booths in the District, in several old and new styles, are typically located on the curb side of sidewalks, or directly on street corners, where they obstruct pedestrians and where conversation is often overwhelmed by traffic noise.

Although, the use of telephone booths are in decline, new and existing should be relocated away from curbs and corners to points along empty building walls wherever possible. Smaller well-designed booths should become standard with distinctive designs worked out with the telephone company.

### Bike Racks / Kiosks

Bike racks are a scarce commodity within the University area. We would recommendation additional grouping of racks along the two primary streets that are in context with other street amenity items.

Information kiosks are basically nonexistent. If the retail owners intend to attract prospective customers from outside the District, one or two informations kiosks should be located at either ends of Calhoun or within the new park. These could be electronic or graphically designed maps.